

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

UNCLAS STATE 003281

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:MARR, CA

SUBJECT: US DECISION ON FUTURE USE OF GOOSE BAY

REF: STATE 284308

1. DEPARTMENT HAS TRANSMITTED TO CANADIAN EMBASSY ON JANUARY 5 REPLY TO CANADIAN AIDE MEMOIRE ON FUTURE US PLANS FOR GOOSE BAY (SEE REFTEL). TEXT OF OUR REPLY IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. "THE CANADIAN EMBASSY'S AIDE-MEMOIRE OF DECEMBER 1, 1975 REQUESTED INFORMATION REGARDING THE FUTURE UNITED STATES MILITARY PRESENCE AT GOOSE BAY AIRPORT IN NEW-FOUNDLAND IN THE LIGHT OF THE DECISION TO INACTIVATE THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND WING HEADQUARTERS PRESENTLY AT GOOSE BAY.

3. "THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS REVIEWED ITS STRATEGIC REQUIREMENTS FOR AN AIRCRAFT SUPPORT BASE AT GOOSE BAY AIRPORT, LABRADOR. OUR REASSESSMENT HAS CONCLUDED THAT SUCH A REQUIREMENT CONTINUES TO EXIST AND THE USAF WISHES UNCLASSIFIED

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TO RETAIN AN OPERATIONAL PRESENCE AT GOOSE BAY. THE INTENT

OF THIS DECISION HAS BEEN COMMUNICATED TO CANADIAN

OFFICIALS DURING THE COURSE OF THE 141ST MEETING OF THE PERMANENT JOINT BOARD ON DEFENSE IN WASHINGTON ON DECEMBER 17, 1975 AND HAS BEEN MADE A PART OF THE RECORD OF THAT MEETING.

4. "IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING DECISION, THE US WISHES TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOC IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE NATURE AND TERMS OF AN OPERATIONAL PRESENCE AT GOOSE BAY FOR DAY-TO-DAY TRANSIENT USE AND AS A BASE OF OPERATIONS TO SUPPORT NATO AND NORAD CONTINGENCY REQUIREMENTS. THE ALREADY-ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO THE CONTINUED USAGE OF GOOSE BAY BY US FORCES IS APPRECIATED.

5. "THE SCOPE AND FORMAT OF THE FUTURE US PRESENCE AT GOOSE BAY HAS NOT BEEN FINALLY DETERMINED. ALTHOUGH THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND WING WILL BE WITHDRAWN, THE US ANTICIPATES A CONTINUING REQUIREMENT FOR CANADIAN WORKERS AT THE BASE, BUT IN SUBSTANTIALLY DECREASED NUMBERS. AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS IS BEING CONDUCTED OF SEVERAL OPTIONS TO SATISFY SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS, ALL OF WHICH WOULD PROVIDE SUITABLE DIRECT OR INDIRECT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CANADIAN WORKERS.

6. "TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF A FUTURE USAF OPERATIONAL PRESENCE WOULD INVOLVE A CLOSE MILITARY SUPPORT RELATIONSHIP WITH CANADIAN FORCES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM ROYAL AIR FORCE. LIKEWISE, THE EXISTING SUPPORT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT UNDER THE GOOSE BAY AIRPORT FACILITIES AGREEMENT, WHICH WILL EXPIRE JUNE 30, 1976, MIGHT BE CONTINUED IN PART. REPRESENTATION IN THE PROSPECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS BY ALL OF THE CANADIAN AGENCIES HAVING AN INTEREST IN GOOSE BAY WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL."
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